venture in the ratio of 25:24:51. It is envisaged that the Academy would be set up as a registered society and managed by the sponsor with a view to involve the Corporate sector in promotion of sports and development of sports infrastructure.

Sports Authority of India has entered with an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has entered into an MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for cooperation in the field of sports.

Government has also taken initiatives for encouraging contribution from the public and the private sector under its scheme of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

Subsidising Sports Equipments for Schools and Colleges

1432. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high cost of equipments and sports tools is acting as an impediment to sports development in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to subsidise sports equipments like archery and shooting equipments and gymnastics for schools and colleges and to provide sports equipments and tools of games to schools and colleges at cheaper rates;

(c) the details of plan of Government to make sports and games more accessible to talented youth in the country; and

(d) the status of such efforts by SAI and other agencies dealing with sports?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (b) The cost of equipments and sports tools varies from sport to sport. However, the state governments/schools/colleges can avail assistance for purchase of various sports equipments under the schemes of "Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playfield" and "Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges". Under the Rural schools Scheme, 100% central assistacne upto a maximum limit of Rs. 1.00 lakh for non-consumables and Rs. 25,000/-

for consumable sports equipments is provided to the schools situated in rural areas without any matching share. In the case of Universities/Colleges, central assistance upto a maximum limit of Rs. 3.00 lakh is provided for purchase of non-consumable sports equipments without any matching share. The approval of central assistance under the above scheme is, however, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the institutions in accordance with the approved norms of the schemes.

(c) and (d) 'Sports' being a state subject, promotion of the same at the State level is the responsibility of the state governments. The Ministry also grants assistance to National Sports Federations for holding National Championship at sub-junior, junior and senior level in both men as well as women categories.

The Ministry operates the Rural Sports Programme with a view to broad basing games and sports and tapping hidden talent in rural areas. The scheme has two sub components-organisation of rural sports tournaments and the North East Sports Festival.

Synthetic Athletic Track and hockey surfaces are exempted from custom duty under a certificate from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Again, sports equipment, imported by National Sports Federations or by individual sports persons can also get the benefit of custom duty exemption in the notified items.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) also augments the efforts of the state government in promotion of sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior Level. The SAI is implementing the following sports promotional scheme to identify talent in various sports disciplines in the age groups ranging from 8-25 years so as to excel at National & International Level. Under the following SAI's scheme sportspersons in 28 sports disciplines are admitted in SAI sports centers and provided with systematic and scientific training to achieve excellence at various level of competition.

(i) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC) (8-14 years)

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) (8-14 years)

(iii) Special Area Games (SAG) (14-21 years)

(iv) SAI Training Centre (STC) (14-21 years)

(v) Centre of Excellence (COX) (17-25 years)